

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 1901.

No. 6.

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BIRTHS.

On the 23rd January, at 58, Bluff, Yokohama, the wife of E. P. W. SKRIMSHIRE, of a son.
On the 29th January, at Foochow, the wife of GEORGE L. GREIG, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 17th January, at the Presbyterian Church, Singapore, by the Rev. S. S. Walker, Mr. THOMAS CUMMINS to Miss LEAH HAIMOVITCH, At H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, and afterwards at the residence of W. C. Lay, Esq., on the 31st January, by the Rev. C. Darwent, DAVID CRAWFORD DICK, C.E., to AGNES LUNN, daughter of James Hood, Esq., Li liesleaf, Scotland.

DEATHS.

On the 31st December, at Whitechurch, Salop, in his 28th year, ROBERT, only son of Thomas WINDSOR, of Bangkok, Siam.
At Shanghai, on the 26th January, 1901, ANNIE, the beloved wife of G. SHEKURY, and third daughter of M. HAIMOVITCH, aged 26 years.
At Shanghai, on the 30th January, 1901, ANNE, widow of the late J. MCCARTHY, of Shanghai, aged 60 years.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

H. E. Sheng is reported to have assured his foreign friends that H. E. Li Hung-chang is in perfect health.

A private despatch received in London at the beginning of this week stated that Russia had "forbidden the execution of Prince Tuan."

The Government of Netherlands India has withdrawn its proclamation declaring Singapore an infected port owing to plague.

It is stated in well-informed circles in Brussels that the Belgian indemnity demanded of China will amount to 100,000,000 francs.

The Russians are restoring, under orders, train-loads of material and plant seized by them at the Tongshan and Shankaikwan railway works last year.

In a list of Filipino insurgents deported to Guam appear the following names of leaders:—Generals Piode Pilar, and Mariano, Llanero and Apolinario Mabini, Pablo Ocampo, and Manuel E. Roxas.

Prince Chun has been selected to convey to Berlin China's apology for the murder of Baron von Ketteler in Peking, and has started on his way to Germany.

The former Viceroy's yamen at Tientsin, now occupied by the Provisional Government, was burnt down on the night of the 30th January and everything destroyed. It is believed to be a case of incendiarism.

Sir Claude Macdonald, British Minister to Tokyo, accompanied by Lady Macdonald, was received in audience by their Majesties the Emperor and Empress on the 21st ult., when the Minister presented his credentials.

The envoy selected by China to proceed to London to condole with King Edward on the death of his mother, and to felicitate him on his accession to the British throne, is Pao Shih, formerly Literary Chancellor at Canton.

According to a Seoul despatch of the 24th ult., Chinese soldiers and banditti who have been driven out of Manchuria by the Russians are plundering the inhabitants of Ham-kyeng. A message has been sent to the Home Department for the despatch of troops.

Memorial services were held on Saturday last in the principal ports of the Far East in honour of the late Queen Victoria. An account of the ceremonies at Hongkong will be found on pp. 112-115, and the Shanghai and other services are described in our correspondent's telegrams on p. 112.

It is reported that the island of Tsukiwotao, a small island lying at the entrance to the harbour of Chemulpo, has been purchased by the Korean Government for 70,000 yen, from its owner, a Japanese named Yoshikawa. It appears that the Japanese originally paid 20,000 yen for the island, which was sold to him by a Korean.

The native *Supao* states that Russia demands a special indemnity of 30 million taels (over and above the war indemnity) for returning the three Manchurian provinces to China, this indemnity to be paid within 30 years in instalments and at an interest of 6 per cent. per annum. Count Waldersee demands a special indemnity of 500,000 taels for the murder of Baron von Ketteler.

At the funeral procession of the late Queen in London on the 2nd instant, Japan was represented by Baron Hayashi, but China was unrepresented. It was noticed that in crossing from the Isle of Wight to Portsmouth the King saluted the new Japanese battleship *Hatsuse*.

It is reported in the *Perak Pioneer* that Sir Frank Swettenham will be out next month, to relieve his brother, Sir Alexander, who will then go home on leave. Also, that consequent on that arrangement, Colonel Walker will cancel his leave for the present, and continue to act as British Resident of Perak.

It is stated that a strong party of members of Parliament interested in the Chinese question is being organised with a view to active measures being taken in the coming Session to bring the whole subject of our policy in the Far East prominently before the House of Commons and the country generally.

Mr. Conger telegraphed to Washington at the beginning of the week that in the negotiations at Peking Austria, Italy, Belgium, and Spain almost invariably supported Germany, while Great Britain also usually sided with that country. The United States, Russia, France, and Japan were thus left in a minority.

The *Sin Wen Pao* reports that it has sent a special message to Hsianfu to learn the truth of the rumour concerning the execution of Prince Chuang and Yu Hsien. The reply received pronounced the report false. The whereabouts of the two men are not clearly known, and it is believed that they are under influential protection.

The silence hitherto observed by the Russian Press with regard to the massacres of Chinese at Blagovestchensk by the Russian troops is at last broken by the St. Petersburg *Viedomosti*. In making the announcement that the official investigation will be instituted "so soon as the Chinese trouble is ultimately disposed of," the Russian journal unhesitatingly avows that a dreadful "blood-guilt attaches to the authors and perpetrators of the Amur butcheries," but in some slight extenuation pleads the "rages and exasperation" under which the Russian soldiery acted. What was the cause of their exasperation? Many of the authors of the massacres were subsequently promoted, and a few of them received decorations. "If the official investigation be not made," says the *Herald*, "a lasting disgrace will rest upon Russia and the Russian Army."

The following additional appointments have been made to the Staff of the China Field Force by Lieutenant-General Sir Alfred Gaselee, commanding:—Colonel L. R. H. Campbell, I.S.C., Base Commandant, to be General Officer in Charge of Communications; Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Swan, I.S.C., to be A.A. and Q.M.G., Lines of Communication; Brevet Major T. E. Scott, D.S.O., 1st Sikh Infantry, to be Commandant, Lines of Communication; Captain R. B. Low, 9th Bengal Cavalry, Provost Marshal, to be Camp Commandant at Headquarters in addition to other duties; Captain A. W. S. Wingate, 1st Chinese Regiment, to be D.A.A.G., for Military Intelligence; Captain McC. R. Ray, 7th Bengal Infantry, Field Intelligence Officer, to be D.A.A.G., Lines of Communication; and Captain G. F. S. Menzies, 1st Chinese Regiment, to be D.A.Q.M.G., Lines of Communication.

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French and English mails of the 28th December arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, on the 2nd February (36 days); and the German mail of the 25th December arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Kiautschou*, on the 6th January (43 days).

RUSSIA AND CHINA,

(Daily Press, 4th February.)

Most of us were inclined to believe that the acceptance by the Chinese Emperor of the preliminary points demanded by the Powers marked the first stage in the wearisome negotiations with the truculent Court at Hsianfu, and that henceforth it would be easier to arrange the outstanding differences between China and the Western nations. Reasoning, however, from what has since taken place, it daily looks more as if the nominal acceptance of the terms was but yet another shifty device to throw dust in the eyes of the Powers, and gain time pending the eventualities of "something turning up." The underhand dealings of China with Russia, of whatever nature they be, seem in some way connected with the policy of delay. It is suggested that Corea is involved in the deal. According to Japanese reports Russia has recently been recommencing in Corea a policy of interference, and though in regard to Corea the peculiar sensitiveness of the Japanese as a nation on all topics concerning that peninsula, might lead us to lay the less stress on statements coming from Japanese sources, there is, we believe, too much evidence that the communications between the Russian representative and the Korean Court have been unfriendly. It is true that Russia from St. Petersburg has given a specific denial to all these reports; and we seem to be placed in the dilemma of either accepting her word, or of judging her by her acts rather than her promises. Now, while we have no reason whatever to doubt the sincerity of Russia's assurances that she is anxious to consolidate rather than to advance, we cannot afford to ignore the fact that she is still at that stage which has ever in the past proved itself fraught with danger for every nation which has assumed the part of military conquest. It was this identical cause that led to the sudden fall of the ancient Assyrian Empire at the height of its power: Assyria had spent her energies in strengthening her front, and had neglected to keep her centre in touch with her extremities. When the time came for an attack on her communications, she was found helpless, and succumbed to the first serious blow. Russia has in like manner ever kept her strength in front, while at the same time taking care to present a formidable armament in Europe. There is, however, little real sympathy between the extremities; Russia in Europe and Russia in Siberia are, in fact, rapidly becoming separate entities; and the two heads of the hydra, though nourished by the same heart's blood, do not always, nor perhaps often, beat together in unison. This is the opportunity offered to a statesman of the temperament of LI HUNG-CHANG, of which all through his long life he has ever taken advantage of. In this he acts on an instinct common to all delaying nations, and the only peculiarity is that he has for so long worked on the principle, and has done so in so astute a manner, that those on whom he has exercised his peculiar talent have been the last to recognise the fact. That Russia is perfectly cognisant of this source of weakness there is no doubt; and St. Petersburg would gladly pause, but her men of action are in front, and are impatient to take advantage of the opportunities offered from day to day. Over such men the central government has ever lacked control. It was in vain that men like CHERNAIEFF and KAUSMANN were placed under the ban, or even disgraced, the work went on. Some local officer became engaged in an intrigue, which seemed to his chief to

compromise his relations with his neighbours; these in the heat of passion were followed by hectoring demands, till at last the heated passions on both sides broke out in open violence. Such a position opens a world of possibilities to a man of LI HUNG-CHANG's antecedents; Corea, flanked on either side by Russia and Japan, offers an ideal opportunity; and no one knows better than the old tempter that if he blows the flame up to a certain height, the old leaven will become too powerful for the Court at St. Petersburg to restrain the ferment. Meanwhile the teachings of history are all being cast to the winds by the factors in this tragic comedy. The calm student recalls in vain to the heated actors the lessons of the past; and it has become useless to point out to Russia or China the inevitable dangers of the course on which both are bent.

THE PAOTINGFU FIASCO.

(Daily Press, 5th February.)

Our Tientsin correspondent's letter, dated 11th November, which has reached us thus late no doubt owing to delay in transmission by overland courier, gives a striking picture of the Paotingfu fiasco, in which, as has been usual in the past year's events in North China, the British authorities have come in for the greatest amount of blame. Nor can it be said that the blame has usually been undeserved. In the case under consideration, "a strong initiative was expected from them," our correspondent says, "as British subjects had been the chief victims of local atrocity. In the result the foreign critics put down Sir ARTHUR GASELEE's timidity to the presence of a political officer, who would do nothing that was not in strict accord with the jots and tittles of official procedure." On the very rare occasions where our naval or military authorities have taken the initiative, the diplomatists have taken care to give away any advantages gained. Possibly this may account for the almost absolute lack of any vigour displayed by British officers in the North; otherwise it can only be attributed to mere incompetence, which we are loth to believe, though that our Continental critics hold this opinion cannot be denied. For all the voice that we have had of late in North-China in matters where our interests are vitally concerned, it must be confessed that we might well be a third-rate Power. The total result of the Paotingfu expedition, however, can have been satisfactory to very few. The French can congratulate themselves on their superior smartness, but they seem to have reached their objective first by a disregard of the general plan similar to that displayed by the Russians outside Peking in August last. The general action of the Allies toward the Chinese and Manchu officials can only be characterised as extraordinary. It cannot be held that, guilty as the majority were of the atrocities against Europeans perpetrated at Paotingfu earlier in the year, the fate which befell them was undeserved when they were beheaded—for this was the punishment inflicted, as was seen from the report which we reproduced on the 21st ult. from the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*. But their reception in the first instance as "honourable men," as our correspondent describes (and his account is substantially the same as others already received), marks a lack of decision in the conduct of the Allies which is discreditable. The last scene, in which TING YUNG, the Tartar General, and the cavalry colonel who suffered decapitation with them were executed, may have been impressive to the onlookers.

but it would have more fitly precluded by something other than the amenities which marked the entrance of the allied troops into Paotingfu. It is to be suspected that the other commanders were as much in doubt as General GASELEE about the course to be adopted. The reason for this is not apparent; but no more plain are the reasons for many other acts in the campaign in North China.

YUNNAN, AND BRITISH ENTERPRISE IN WESTERN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 6th February.)

The Diplomatic and Consular Reports issued by the Foreign Office continue to come out. The latest to hand, a very interesting report, is that of Mr. Acting-Consul LITTON on the trade of Ssumao (Sze-mao) and Mengtse for the year 1899. Though we have heard little of late about Yunnan, apart from the troubles last year between M. FRANCOIS and the Chinese officials, and the withdrawal of foreigners from the province, there can be no doubt that in the future the question of Yunnan will assume much greater importance, even if Yunnan is only to be considered as the threshold of Szechuen and the Upper Yangtsze region. It is nearly two years ago now since we had before us the report of Mr. J. W. JAMIESON, Acting British Consul at Ssumao, on the "Prospects of development of commercial intercourse with South-western Yunnan and a short account of the trade of Ssumao." Mr. JAMIESON in that report found it difficult to understand on what grounds sanguine hopes of Yunnan's future prosperity were based, seeing what little support such hopes received from competent observers. He said: "Apart from minerals, the province possesses few other resources, and the inhabitants are unenterprising and lazy to a degree. So long as they can grow enough rice to feed themselves and procure enough cotton wherewith to make the few articles of clothing necessary in this equable climate, they are content." As far as Ssumao is concerned Mr. LITTON's report is no more hopeful than was Mr. JAMIESON's. He is of opinion that there is little chance that the foreign trade of the town will ever assume considerable proportions; the importance of the place has been grossly exaggerated, he says, and its opening to trade has resulted in no benefit to British interests. In itself a town of 1,800 houses, chiefly mud-built, with a population of 9,000, in Kwangtung it would only be regarded as a large village. It is in a mountainous and poor region, and the population consists largely of Shans, Lolos, etc. Communications are execrable. There are no important local products, except the tea industry centred at Ipang and the salt industry near Pu-erh. Tropical rains and malaria cut off trade with the Shan States to the south and south-west almost entirely for the four months from June to September. "Thus," says Mr. LITTON, "all the conditions necessary for a flourishing British commerce are conspicuous by their absence, and it is so remote (eighteen stages) from Yunnan-fu, the provincial capital, and news percolates so slowly, that the officer stationed at Ssumao can only be very imperfectly informed of what is going on in Chinese official circles." Mr. LITTON substantiates his remarks on Ssumao's trade with figures which bear out his conclusions, and certainly cannot be said to fail to establish his case.

Of Mengtse, the other open mart of the Yunnan southern frontier, Mr. LITTON

speaks far otherwise. It has been, he says, a conspicuous success. Near the Tonkin border, within eight easy stages from Yunnan-fu, enjoying an excellent climate, and only a day and a half's journey from Manbao, the head of navigation on the Red River, it is very favourably placed for trade, and is the commercial key of the best districts of Yunnan. The imports for the three years 1897-9 have reached the figures £389,029, £398,748, and £548,216; the exports, £171,882, £198,056, and £306,036. The principal imports were yarns, cotton and woollen goods, tobacco, and matches; the principal exports, tin in slabs, opium, and Pu-erh tea. Its contiguity to the French frontier is of great advantage to that nation, for whose officials and soldiers in the unhealthy Red River valley it is the natural sanatorium. But it is, as Mr. LITTON points out, a notable fact that in 1899 only £59,800, or a little over seven per cent. of the total trade of £854,252, was to or from the French Colonial Empire. All the rest went from or came to Hongkong. The satisfactory development of the Mengtse trade Mr. LITTON attributes to the four reasons following:—(1) The Red River is the natural trade route between Hongkong and Yunnan, the land carriage being much less than by the West River route. (2) The respect paid to transit passes by the local officials in Yunnan is very beneficial to the trade. (3) The considerable tin product (important mines are near Mengtse) enables the Yunnanese to pay for their cottons and yarns. (4) The tranquillity of the Red River, formerly much infested by pirates, had been secured by the French authorities. (5) The unsatisfactory conditions of the West River route has driven the trade to the rival route. The considerable opium trade for the Canton market along the West River in spite of the blackmail levied by pirates, continues because the combined risks of bad roads, brigands, and *lekin* are more than counterbalanced by the heavy charges for exporting from China into French territory and re-importing into China via Hongkong. For the complete development of the Mengtse trade, Mr. LITTON says, a railway from Hanoi or Haiphong to Yunnan-fu via Mengtse is indispensable, though it might take a long time before it would pay its way. The French for some years past have been considering the question of a complete railway system for Tonkin, and an extension from Laokai, the present head of Red River steam navigation, to Yunnan-fu is contemplated, but the Chinese officials, gentry and the literary class offer a strenuous, if covert, opposition. Physically the only difficulty, according to Mr. LITTON, is the ascent of nearly 4,000 feet from the River valley to the Mengtse plateau. The prospects of Mengtse appear from the report before us to be as bright as those of Ssumao are gloomy.

If British enterprise is to attack Western China on a line of its own, Ssumao on Mr. LITTON's showing is useless as an objective, and of Western Yunnan as a whole he has as poor an opinion as Mr. JAMIESON and previous observers formed of the region. He does not, however, speak so despairingly of railway prospects as they did. It may be remembered that Mr. COLBORNE BABER, some years ago now, spoke of "improving the road from Burma to Yunnan-fu by piercing half a dozen Mont Ceniz tunnels and erecting a few Menai bridges." Mr. JAMIESON quoted this with approval, and said that the same remark held good for any projected railway in southern and western Yunnan. Mr. LITTON, on the other hand, mentions briefly two routes to Yun-

nan-fu through British Burma, one from Mandalay to Kunlon Ferry across the Salween, and to Yunnan-fu via the Nam Ting Valley and Shunning-fu, the other along the Irrawadi to Bhamo and thence to Tengyueh (Momein), Tali, and Yunnan-fu. The first route he considers expensive and valueless, except as part of a larger scheme for a line to Szechuen and the Yangtze. It would pass through exceedingly poor and difficult country east of the Salween, and Shunning is a third-rate tumble-down city. Of the second route he says:—"A good part of the country on the high road from Tengyueh to Yunnan is well populated. Several Chinese officials of experience have expressed to me the belief that when this route is properly opened the imports by it will equal those by the Mengtse route. At present only a small portion of the latter go north or west beyond Yunnan-fu. It is, however, unfortunate that there does not appear to be any staple export in the Tengyueh district, such as tin at Mengtse, which will enable consumers to pay for their imports. Still the history of the Mengtse trade proves that the Yunnanese possess the commercial instincts of the Chinese race, and if the Bhamo-Tengyueh route at all answers to expectations, the minor enterprise of a railway between those two towns will be well worth considering." At any rate it appears from Mr. LITTON's studies that the best chance for British enterprise in Western China along a British line will be by way of the second route. How far the engineers who were prospecting in Western Yunnan at the end of 1899 and beginning of 1900 agree with him we are not in a position to judge yet. There can, however, be little doubt that some day an attempt will be made to tap Westernmost China on some such line as Mr. LITTON mentions, and the results may be as surprising as many previous commercial enterprises which have been coldly received for many years after their first suggestion. Undoubtedly beyond Yunnan there are vast resources, which must one day be exploited.

CHINESE INFLUENCE IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 8th February.)

The suggestion made by the writer of the letter in another column on behalf of the family of the murdered schoolmaster YEUNG KU WAN, that the Chinese in Hongkong, who might otherwise be willing to subscribe, are afraid to show their sympathy, is an unpleasant one, though probably not new to such of our readers as take an interest in this affair. We know of one case in which a Chinese gentleman of unimpeachable character when asked if he would assist to a small extent in the support of the Gage Street victim's wife and children declined, and when pressed for a reason said that the deceased was a "bad man." Asked why, he replied that he was an enemy of China; and though it was pointed out that, even were this so, his family was still a deserving object of charity, he declined to allow his name to be in any way associated with the fund. We fear that there are a great number of Chinese in this Colony similarly driven to check any instinct of benevolence with regard to their unfortunate countrywoman and her children. It cannot be denied that this is a bad state of affairs, and it recalls the early days of the British settlement on this island. Our correspondent speaks of the strength of the Imperial Chinese spy system and the deficiency of our detective force in comparison. From our situation in

such close proximity to Chinese territory and our openness to comers and goers, it is practically impossible to check the influx of native spies; but an efficient detective force would enable us to get rid of some at least of such dangerous persons. It is questioned by many whether such an efficient force is obtainable, for, they argue, no reliance can be put in the native detectives, who are themselves under the influence of Imperial silver. Capable English detectives for such work as is required of them in Hongkong are very rare. We have had and still have them, but not as many as we want. The whole question is a very difficult one, and a solution is hard even to imagine. It is, however, undoubtedly galling to our pride that under the protection of our flag the local Chinese can be most effectually intimidated from the mainland, and that we should be unable to cope with this extraneous influence.

KOWLOON'S WATER SUPPLY.

(Daily Press, 2nd February.)

Mr. LAWRENCE GIBBS's report on the water-supply of Kowloon, as laid before the Legislative Council, is an instructive document. Those who during last year suffered from the miserable supply available and who urged on every possible occasion the necessity of increasing this supply without delay will find therein no lack of arguments in support of their contentions. Mr. GIBBS points out that in 1898 the consumption of water in Kowloon was found to be rapidly overtaking the available sources of supply, and that authority was then obtained to construct the works, which are now in progress for the collection of an additional supply from the hills in the New Territory. These works, however, can only be regarded as temporary, though they will meet the present requirements of the district now supplied, bringing the minimum dry weather quantity up to 300,000 gallons a day. To estimate the full quantity of water required Mr. GIBBS takes the census of British Kowloon in January, 1897, and estimates population and water supply required in the following table:—

	Population.	Gallons per head.	Total gallons per day.
Civil European, land...	1,000	x 20	= 20,000
Civil Chinese, land...	30,000	x 10	= 300,000
Civil Chinese, floating	8,000	x 5	= 40,000
Naval and Military, European	300	x 20	= 6,000
Naval and Military, Asiatic	1,200	x 10	= 12,000
New Territory	3,500	x 10	= 35,000
Total	44,000		413,000

The average thus obtained of nine gallons a head is not excessive for domestic purposes alone, and, Mr. GIBBS adds, it must be borne in mind that the Dock Company's Hunghom establishment takes 20,000 and the Wharf and Godown Company 15,000 gallons a day. "In fact," he continues, "the supply can only be kept within these limits by strict supervision, by metering all private services, and by allowing no private services in Chinese houses." The probable increase of a population like that of Kowloon is impossible to estimate—between 1891 and 1897 it increased 33 per cent.—and in view of the fact that the works will probably take three or four years to complete, it is proposed, Mr. GIBBS says, to provide a fair margin over present requirements and to lay out the works in such a way that they may be extended without stoppage of supply. The supply thought advisable is not less than 500,000 gallons a day, as against the existing 200,000 to 300,000 gallons.

It will be seen from Mr. GIBBS's estimate of 413,000 gallons a day as the quantity at

present necessary in Kowloon and the New Territory that the 500,000 gallons which will by the new scheme be available at the end of three or four years is far from being excessive. Indeed there is every indication that in 1904-5, unless anything happens to disturb the expansion of Kowloon, the 500,000 gallons will be wholly inadequate when they are at last available. Provision, it is true, is to be made for the ready extension of the works without stopping the supply meanwhile. But we cannot but think it would be prudent, and even a matter of commonsense, to plan a larger supply at the end of the three or four years which must elapse. The allowance of nine gallons a head is after all a small one. As long ago as 1885 Mr. Price, reporting on the Tytam Waterworks, put the minimum satisfactory daily allowance per inhabitant in Victoria at not less than from fifteen to twenty gallons, and pointed out that in England at that time the minimum was put at nineteen gallons per day. The conditions of course are different in Kowloon. There is not, as here in Victoria, the overcrowding problem to be faced, bringing with it the increased danger to life from dirt and disease which necessarily follow. Yet in parts at least of our territory on the mainland population is growing rapidly in proportion to area, and with our experience on the Island we cannot too soon consider eventualities. We trust sincerely that the Government will review once more the question of the Kowloon water supply and increase the quantity available at the end of three or four years. Kowloon residents will be able to bear with greater equanimity the usual inconveniences of an intermittent supply and broken pumps, if they can hope at the end of a few years there will be no danger of a continued lack of water through the supply failing to keep pace with the population.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 31st January, 7.51 p.m.

Sheng Tsjen entirely denies Li Hung-chang's alleged illness.

The Yamen occupied by the Allied Government at Tientsin, which was formerly the Viceroy's Yamen, was burnt last night, everything in it being destroyed. The fire is believed to have been the work of an incendiary.

SHANGHAI, 3rd February, 6.50 p.m.

A long Imperial Decree details the reforms suggested by the Emperor in 1898 and orders all viceroys and governors to report what reforms will be necessary when peace is concluded.

Shen Tun-ho, who was banished to the frontier, on Kang-yi's complaint that he had dismantled the Woosung Forts, has been pardoned and appointed Governor of Kalgan.

SHANGHAI, 4th February, 7.37 p.m.

Prince Chun has departed for Germany to apologise for Baron von Ketteler's murder.

Doctor Ament, of the American Board, has been arrested at Peking, charged with abetting Native Christians to burglary.

Native papers declare that the Imperial Court is going to Chengtu. A private decree by the Empress Dowager declares that she and the Emperor united will introduce reforms.

SHANGHAI, 6th February, 8.7 p.m.

H.M.S. *Barfleur* is overdue here. H.M.S. *Alacrity* sails to-morrow.

Pai Shih, formerly Literary Chancellor at Canton, has been appointed special envoy to London to condole with and felicitate the King.

The Russians under orders are restoring train loads of material and plant seized at the Tongshan and Shanhaikwan railway works.

THE LATE QUEEN: SERVICES AT OUTPORTS.

SHANGHAI, 2nd February, 4.25 p.m.

Two Memorial Services were held at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, to-day. The first was confined to the Army and Navy, including the officers of all nations, under the lead of Admiral Seymour and General Creagh. The troops present comprised Bluejackets, Marines, Artillery, Cavalry, Rajputs, Goorkhas, Sikhs, and Baluchis. The scene was most effective.

The second service was for civilians, including the Consuls of all nations. The English, German, Japanese, and Customs Volunteers were present. The ceremony was held in "Queen's weather," and was a great success. The Rt. Rev. G. E. Moule, D.D., Bishop of Mid-China, and the Rt. Rev. F. R. Graves, D.D., the American Episcopalian Bishop, officiated at the service, assisted by numerous clergy, both English and American.

General mourning was observed at Shanghai, all offices and places of business being closed.

SHANGHAI, 3rd February, 6.50 p.m.

At Peking and Tientsin yesterday impressive Memorial Services were held in honour of the late Queen.

MANILA, 2nd February, 3.30 p.m.

The Governor, General MacArthur, with his staff, the general officers, Philippine Civil Commissioners, the Consuls, and numerous international representatives, including Chinese and Hindoos, attended the funeral exercises at the Anglo-American Church here this morning.

OUR LATE QUEEN EMPRESS MEMORIAL SERVICES IN HONGKONG.

MAGNIFICENT FLORAL OFFERINGS.

Saturday, the 2nd inst., was the day set apart for the burial of our late Queen-Empress in Hongkong, as no doubt was the case in every other part of the British empire, the day was fittingly observed. Business was entirely suspended, not only the public offices and large mercantile houses closing their doors but the small tradesmen. Three memorial services were held in St. John's Cathedral, including one in the afternoon for Chinese. There was an impressive military service at half-past nine in the morning, and at half-past eleven the service for the general community took place. During the day a large number of beautiful floral tributes were laid at the foot of the Queen's Statue, and later on minute guns were fired by all the warships in the harbour.

THE MILITARY SERVICE

At the Military Service the Cathedral was crowded to its utmost capacity by the different detachments forming the Garrison, and it will be readily understood that the scene presented was a most striking one. H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops), and staff occupied seats to the front of the nave. The military bands occupied the choir stalls, and at the commencement of the service

played with great effect the "Dead March" from *Saul*, the hymn "Thy will be done" being subsequently sung. The clergy in attendance were the Bishop of Victoria and the Rev. W. Bannister, the Bishop preaching.

The BISHOP took his text from the 21st verse of the third chapter of the Revelation of St. John the Divine:—"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne." He said—I remember it once being remarked to me what a grand thing it was for our Queen that, day after day, and week after week, throughout the whole world, prayers went up on her behalf. How often have all of you joined in such prayers, how often have you stood up in this church and joined in the words of our National Anthem, praying for our Queen, that God would "send her victorious, happy and glorious. God save the Queen." And now our prayers for her are ended, and we have met together in sorrow to join in spirit with those who are this day committing her body to the ground. And yet as we meet together it ought not to be altogether with sorrow. Sorrow there undoubtedly is throughout the whole British empire; aye, and far beyond the limits of the British empire. But yet as Christian men we regard the call of our Queen from us not only with sorrow but also with joy; we have prayed for her again and again, and we know that God, who answers prayer, has answered our prayers on her behalf. In this life we have seen the way in which God has answered our prayers, and we believe—nay, we know for certain—that God will answer the prayers we have offered in the world to come; and that as God has saved the Queen in this life, so he has saved the Queen for the life to come. And therefore this morning I wish you to consider the death of the Queen not so much with sorrow but with joy; and for that purpose I wish to bring before you briefly three victories and three thrones—three victories and three thrones given by God to our late beloved and honoured Queen. First then, take the first victory. God gave to our Queen victory over her foes, and He seated our Queen upon the throne of empire. She herself was indeed a lover of peace, but still throughout her long reign there was almost continuous war. Thanks be to God, her own beloved England was not touched with war! But throughout the empire, on the borders of the empire, year after year her armies were engaged in fighting her foes; and year after year your prayers were answered, and year after year God sent her "victorious, happy, and glorious," year after year God spread the borders of her empire, until at the last Queen Victoria was seated upon the throne of an empire far greater in extent than any other empire that the world has ever seen. We talk sometimes of the great empire of the Romans in ancient days. Why, the Roman empire was a mere drop in a bucket compared with the empire of the Queen of England. And so God gave her victory over her foes and He seated her upon the throne of empire. Then, again, God gave to her a better victory and seated her upon a better throne. God gave her victory over temptation, victory over self, and He seated her upon the throne of love. Think for a moment what the temptations of such a position must have been! Think when that young Queen, 18 years of age, came to the throne of so vast an empire how easy it would have been for her to have spent her time and used her position and her powers for herself! Many a ruler has used his position to enrich himself, for his own aggrandisement. It would not have been unnatural, it would not have been difficult for our Queen to have done the same—to have left the cares of government to her advisers and to have lived for self and not for her people. But what did she do? She lived for her people and not for herself. She lived for us and for our welfare and not for her own pleasure or her own aggrandisement. And because she lived for us, and because we knew that she loved us, therefore we loved her, and she occupied a throne in the heart of each one of her people. Far and wide, whatever the race, whatever the country, all who acknowledged her rule felt also the power of her sympathy and her love. Else how is it, for instance, that during the past ten days here in Hongkong all her troops, of whatever nationality, have petitioned

THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

Seldom has there been seen in the cathedral church of St. John the Baptist, Hongkong, so large, so representative, so mournful a congregation as assembled within it on Saturday last, when the residents of the colony, people of divers races and religions, offered unitedly a last public tribute to the goodness and greatness of their late Queen-Empress whose interment was then taking place in England. Had the service been dedicated to thanksgiving instead of mourning, the scene might well have been described as one of surpassing brilliance, for even the sable drapings of the columns, pulpit and altar, the sombre garb of mourning worn by the vast number of civilians present, were unable to dim the brilliancy of the uniforms of the military, naval, civil and consular officers, who were present on behalf of their governments and services to demonstrate their sympathy and respect. When the service was commenced the scene was majestic in its impressiveness: the clergy were seated within the communion rails; in the chancel east of the choir were members of the congregation who it was impossible to seat elsewhere. The surpliced choir occupied their usual position, and at the head of the nave were the numerous officers in scarlet and blue uniforms, with gold lace and glittering orders, whilst the congregation occupied the transepts, nave and gallery. The doors were thronged with Europeans unable to obtain seats, whilst behind them were packed throngs of Asiatics, attracted by the service, whose numbers round the church must have amounted to thousands. Many religions were no doubt represented in the church by those composing the congregation, but as the solemn service proceeded there seemed to be but one united act of worship, in which Christian, Jew, Mohammedan and Zoroastrian joined with earnest fervour, for men of the latter religions were seen to be present. Amongst the congregation were H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., Lady Blake and Miss Blake, attended by Mr. R. F. Johnston, A.D.C.; Senhor Conselheiro J. M. de Souza Horta e Costa, Governor of Macao, attended by his A.D.C's Lieut. Carvalhaes and Lieut. Gouvea, and Captain Andrew, commander of the Portuguese cruiser *Admiral*; Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., and Mrs. Gascoigne, with Captain the Hon. H. W. Trevelyan, A.D.C.; Colonel the O'Gorman and Madam O'Gorman, Commodore Powell, C.B.; Colonel Bertie, R.W.F., and Mrs. Bertie, Major Morris and Mrs. Morris; Rear-Admiral Kirchhoff of the German Squadron, with staff, and German Naval Officers; Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., Chief Justice; Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary; Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police; Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works; Hon. Basil Taylor, Acting Harbour Master; His Honour T. H. Sercombe Smith, Acting Puisne Judge; Hon. Meigh Goodman, K.C., Attorney-General; Sir Thomas Jackson, Senhor A. G. Romano, Consul-General for Portugal; Dr. R. Lang, German Vice-Consul; M. L. G. Le Roux, French Consul; Chev. Z. Volpicelli, Italian Consul; M. Oustineff, Russian Consul; N. Post, Austrian Vice-Consul; P. Bure, Belgium Consul; M. Kate, Japanese Consul; W. F. Aldrich, Acting United States Consul-General; F. J. Haver Droeze, Consul-General for the Netherlands; J. M. Zuniga, Spanish Consul, and other consular officials; captains and officers of the British, German, French, Portuguese, and American men-of-war in port, and officers of the staff and regiments here.

The service did not commence until ten minutes after the appointed hour, and by this time there were between 1,100 and 1,200 people present, seating accommodation having been arranged for 1,073. The Choir entered in solemn silence, the congregation rising, followed by the Clergy of the colony and naval chaplains, who were as follows: The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Victoria, D.D.; the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., chaplain; Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., assistant chaplain, the Revs. J. C. Leishman, R.N., W. H. Meeres, R.N., F. H. Jackson, R.N., C. H. Salisbury, R.N., E. H. Good, M.A., R.N., E. F. Harrison Smith, R.N., W. J. Southam, T. Wright, Fong Yat San, J. H. France, M.A., W. Banister. On the Choir and Clergy taking their places the thrilling strains of the "Dead March"

from *Saul*, commenced the service, the congregation remaining standing with bowed heads. Then came the opening sentences of the Burial service for the Dead, following by the Psalm, *Domine refugium*, sung by the Choir to Barnby's setting in F. After the lesson Stainer's beautiful anthem "What are these arrayed in white robes" was rendered by the Choir, followed later by the hymn "Now the Labourer's task is o'er" to Dyke's impressive setting. Rarely has the music been better sung by the Cathedral Choir than at this service, and in selection and rendition it was befitting the sad and solemn occasion.

The Bishop selected for his text the words "Faithful and Wise" from *Luke xii. 42 and 43*— "And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?" "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

He said—The words of my text were spoken by our Lord in answer to a question put to Him by St. Peter. The Lord had been speaking of the importance of faithfulness on the part of the servants. St. Peter asked whether His words referred only to the Apostle or to all men. In reply, Christ showed that all men are in the position of stewards, to whom God has intrusted various gifts and powers, and who are therefore responsible to God for the use which they make of their trust. Those who are faithful to their trust will receive a reward; those who are unfaithful will meet with punishment. The Saviour further goes on to emphasize the truth that the greater the trust the greater the responsibility. "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required; and to whom they commit much, of him will they ask the more." Most appropriate therefore are the words of the text to our services this day, in which we are gathered together to unite in spirit with those who this day commit to the ground the body of our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, who has been taken from us to rest from her labours in the presence of God. She was most truly God's steward. Let us study a few lessons with regard to her stewardship, that we may, as we study it, not only rejoice over her own great worth and work, but may also rejoice over the reward, which Christ promises in these verses, and into which it is our sure confidence that she has already entered. And first let us note two conditions of her stewardship as described in our text. First, it was of Divine appointment. It was the Lord who made her ruler over His household. We are indeed taught in Scripture that all men are appointed of God to a stewardship; that our time, our strength, our abilities, our positions, are all "talents" intrusted to us by God, to be used for His glory, for which we are responsible to Him. But we are taught also that, in a special manner, "the powers that be are ordained of God." It is therefore no empty form when our English Sovereigns are proclaimed "by the grace of God." We believe that they are "ordained of God"; we honour and obey them because it is so. And to our beloved Queen what strength it must have given, what courage, what assurance in executing judgment and righteousness, to know that her appointment was of God Himself, that she was in very truth the "Minister of God," and might therefore ever rely on Divine guidance and Divine help. At the same time how the thought must have deepened the sense of responsibility. Appointed by God, to Him she was responsible; to Him she would have to render the final account of her stewardship. Then notice also that another condition of the stewardship is that it is to be used for the good of others. The steward is appointed "to give the household their portion of meat in due season." A ruler is appointed of God for the benefit of the people. There have been rulers who have used their position to enrich themselves, who have wielded their power solely for their own aggrandisement. Such rulers abuse their trust, and are unfaithful to Him who appointed them. Rulers are appointed of God, as stewards of His gifts for the benefit of their people. With these conditions of stewardship in our minds, let us turn for a short space to the life and reign of our late beloved Queen, and see how she fulfilled them. Hers was indeed a

that they may be allowed to wear mourning in memory of their Queen? The feeling has not been limited to one regiment or to one race; but throughout the world, throughout the empire, all have been bound in the feeling of deepest loyalty, awe, and more than loyalty, of deepest love; for our Queen. And why? Because we have known that our Queen loved us; because we have known that our Queen sympathised with us. Look at her life. Where was the poor cottager who lived near her who did not see the Queen coming quietly to the cottage in sympathetic tender love? Where was the poor workman who suffered from his business, some mining accident, or some other catastrophe, who did not realise that the first to sympathise, the first to help, was the Queen? Did not her soldiers know that when they went to fight they were followed by the prayers, by the love, by the sympathy—by the practical sympathy—of their Queen? Do not the sailors feel the same? Was there any part of her kingdom, of her empire, was there any section of her subjects, who did not know that the Queen's heart was big enough for them all, that the Queen's heart took them all in? And therefore, because they knew it, and because God had given her such victory over self that she could live for her people and not for herself—therefore she had her throne upon the heart of each of her subjects. But there was a still better throne—a throne to which we believe she has now passed. God gave her not only victory over her foes, not only victory over temptation and over self, but also victory over death, and as we faithfully believe, seated her now upon a throne of glory. "To him that overcometh," saith Christ, "will I grant to sit with me in my throne." We must not talk of our Queen as dead. She is not dead. She has changed her sphere of life, but she lives. More than a thousand years ago one of her ancestors who sat upon the same throne of England, Edward the Confessor, turned to those who were weeping round him and said as he was dying, "Weep not for me, I shall not die but live, and as I leave the land of the dying I trust to see the blessings of the Lord in the land of the living." Our Queen does not die but live. She has left the land of the dying that she may enter upon the blessings of the Lord in the land of the living. Some of us talk of "the poor Queen," even as they talk of others when they die and call them poor. Why poor? There is no poverty in death to those who love and serve their Saviour. What has the Queen left? She has left indeed a great and vast empire. She has left much earthly happiness; for God did send her "happy and glorious." She has left that earthly happiness; but how mixed that happiness was! You know that again and again she suffered deep personal sorrow, and she had much mourning in her earthly life. Now she has gone where God wipes away all tears from all eyes. She has left her earthly glory, but that earthly glory was but temporal, and she has now entered into a glory which is eternal. She has laid down her crown; but that crown was but an earthly crown, a corruptible crown; she now has an incorruptible crown. She has left her throne, but she is seated upon a far better throne, for Christ said: "To him or to her that overcometh will I give to sit upon my throne"—seated, therefore, upon a throne prepared for her by Christ. Why should we mourn? Why should we be sorry? Sorry for ourselves, yes, but sorry for her, no—certainly no. No; God has heard our prayers; God has saved the Queen; saved her by His love; saved her by the blood of Christ; saved her from trouble, from sorrow, from care, from anxiety, from temptation, from sin; saved her from all the troubles of this present world and called her home to be at rest with Himself; saved her from all the real hard work that she had day after day for more than three score years; saved her from that, for "Blessed are they who die in the Lord," said the Spirit, "for they do rest from their labours and their works do follow them." Well may we thank God when we think of our Queen. Well may we join in St. Paul's song of triumph, "Oh death, where is thy sting; Oh grave, where is thy victory!" Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory, who hath given her, the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

weighty stewardship. Never in the history of mankind has any man or woman been called to rule an Empire so vast as that of which she was monarch. Even at the time of her accession the Empire far surpassed in extent and in population any of the great empires of the ancient world. Of late she has ruled over more than a sixth part of the habitable world, and considerably more than a sixth part of its population. In addition to that, her influence with the rulers of other nations has of necessity been immense. I mention these things, not from any foolish desire to boast of the greatness of the British Empire, but in order to bring clearly before your minds the tremendous (I can use no other word) responsibilities of the Queen's position. And when she was called to assume these responsibilities, she was but eighteen years of age! True, she had great and wise advisers. True, she had for twenty-one years the help of her wise and noble Consort. Yet the burden was hers alone, and she had to bear the ultimate responsibility alone, for more than sixty years. How then did she bear it? Our text describes the qualifications of a good steward, and no words in the English language will better describe the character of our late most gracious Queen than those supplied us by our Lord Himself — "Faithful and Wise." *Faithful* — faithful to God who appointed her; faithful to her people who were committed to her care; faithful to the laws which she administered; faithful to her pledges; faithful in word, in work, in life. Let me quote one striking incident to illustrate how, in her reign, she maintained her faithfulness to her God and to her people. At the time when the Government of India was transferred from the East India Company to the direct rule of the British Crown, the Queen issued a Proclamation to the inhabitants of India. The question of the relationship of the Government to Christian work amongst the natives had, for some time previous, been the subject of much discussion, and the part of the Proclamation which referred to that question had to be drawn up with much care. A draft was considered and approved by the Cabinet, and sent to the Queen for signature. But the Queen objected to its spirit and wording, and requested that another draft should be prepared, indicating the line she wished to be adopted. This second draft she accepted in substance, but made certain emendations with her own hand. The word "neutrality" as indicating her attitude towards religion she erased from the document, and with her own hand she wrote, "Firmly relying ourselves on the truth of Christianity and acknowledging with gratitude the solace of religion, we disclaim alike the right and the desire to impose our convictions on any of our subjects." Further, at the end of the Proclamation, she added the words, "May the God of all power grant to Us and those in authority under Us strength to carry out these our wishes for the good of our people." Faithful to her God, she avowed her conviction of the truth of Christianity and placed herself before India as a Christian Queen. Faithful to her people, she would not hamper or hinder their liberty of conscience. And as throughout her long and prosperous reign, her people trusted her; the world trusted her; because all men knew that she was *faithful*. And because she was faithful she was wise. Faithful to Him who is the source of all wisdom, she received from Him the wisdom necessary for her great task. In all her ways she acknowledged Him, and He directed her paths. We can well imagine how, when she came to the throne, she must have echoed the prayer of Solomon, "Oh Lord my God, thou hast made thy steward Queen; and I am but a little child; I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give thy servant therefore an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" And the thing pleased the Lord and He gave her a wise and understanding heart. And, by this God-given wisdom she has reigned; by her wisdom she has strengthened her Kingdom; by her wisdom she has knit together the Empire; by drawing all hearts into one, focussing them

upon herself. At the time of her coronation, the Dean of St. Paul's, Sydney Smith, preaching in the Cathedral said, "What limits to the glory and happiness of our native land, if the Creator should in his mercy have placed in the heart of this royal woman the rudiments of wisdom and mercy; and if giving them time to expand and to bless our children's children with her goodness, He should grant to her a long sojourning upon earth, and leave her to reign over us till she is well stricken in years. What glory! what happiness! what joy! what bounty of God!" These words were indeed "a prophetic aspiration," and most richly has God answered the prayers of her people offered for her day by day and year by year. Most richly has He blessed her, and in so doing has He blessed us, in giving us a Queen so faithful and so wise. "Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing." The words again seem to apply with peculiar emphasis to the Queen. In spite of her four-score years she was still "so doing," faithful and wise, when the call came. No flagging of the industrious hand; no failing of the loving faithful heart; no clouding of the wise and clear brain. Still carrying on her stewardship, the Lord came and called her swiftly and peacefully to Himself. A blessed ending to a blessed life, or rather a blessed entrance into the better life. Ah! my friends and fellow-subjects, may we not indeed praise God for what he has done for us and for her. May we not praise Him and bless His Name that He gave us such a Queen? May we not praise Him that He made her what she was? May we not bless Him also for the peace, and rest, and joy now given to His servant, faithful and wise. But let us not close without remembering that there is yet another lesson that we may learn from her life, besides that of thanksgiving. There is the lesson to be learned from her example. For we too are stewards. To each one of us has God given "talents," to some more, to some less, to some ten, to some five, to some one. To each of us has He given his or her work to do; abilities and opportunities and powers to be used in His service. None of us can for a moment compare our position or duties with those of our Queen; but we must all remember this, that be our trust great or small, it is a *trust*, a trust from God Himself. Your life, your powers, your position, your influence, whatever they may be, are given to you by God Himself, to be used for the benefit of others to God's glory. May God make each one of us to be faithful and wise stewards! May God grant that when our Lord shall come, He may find us so doing as He found our beloved and honoured Queen Victoria.

The old hymn "O God our help in ages past" was then sung, followed by the final prayers and benediction by the Bishop.

The service terminated with Beethoven's "Marche Funèbre," impressively played like the opening voluntary by Mr. A. G. Ward, the organist, after which the choir and clergy left in silence, and the congregation dispersed.

THE JEWISH SERVICE.

At the Jewish Synagogue Ohel Leaha Memorial Service to her late Majesty Queen Victoria was held on Sunday, the 3rd inst. In the absence of a Rabbi, Mr. S. A. Joseph prepared and delivered the following address and prayers:—

"My dear Fellow Congregants: We have assembled here to-day to pay our last tribute to our late beloved Queen. It is our duty, morally and religiously. To shed tears over, and to mourn the loss of a righteous person is considered by our religion a meritorious action, so it is not the feelings of gratitude and loyalty alone that brings us together to-day; the occasion has its religious claims also. It has been said by one of our most illustrious Rabbis that "It is unnecessary to make monuments for the righteous; their deeds will commemorate them equally well." How completely this saying is exemplified in the case of our beloved Queen! Can her memory perish from the mind of man? Will it be possible to write the history of the 19th century with her name left out?

I propose to take for my text to-day the passage in Isaiah, Chap. xxvi. v. 2. "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in." The Midrash com-

ments on this verse to point out that the gates of Heaven are open to all righteous people, be they Jews or Gentiles. The use of the word "Goy," which means equally a nation or a Gentile, is especially commented upon as showing that Heaven is not exclusively the Jew's portion. It is not necessary to be an Aaronite, a Levite, or an Israelite, in order to inherit eternal life and happiness in the world to come. Another illustrious Rabbi, a President of the Great Synhedrion, said if a Gentile lives up to the law, he may be esteemed the equal of the High Priest, for it is written in Leviticus Chap. xviii. v. 5 "Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments; which if a man do he shall live in them; I am the Lord." He lays emphasis on the use of the word "man" and includes in that term any man of whatever colour or creed. The paraphraser Jonathan who flourished over nineteen hundred years ago, before the time of this great Rabbi, and Aquilas, who lived in the first century of the Christian Era, both explained the phrase "He shall live in them," mentioned in the text, as meaning eternal life, thus showing that no one is debarred from enjoying it who is leading a virtuous life. Truly, then, the portion of our Queen in the happiness of the world to come is assured!

Ecclesiastes, Chap. vii. v. 1, is translated "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." This translation is not a clear one. In the original the idea of the death and birth is connected with the possessor of "a good name," meaning that the day of his death is better than the day of his birth. The life of our Queen affords a beautiful illustration of this text. When she was born, no one dreamt that such a great and virtuous ruler was destined to grace this earth, whose high qualities as wife, mother, and Queen would make her an example for all time; but the day of her death sees all heads bowed in reverence before her grave and all tongues speaking her praise.

In the nineteenth verse of the fourth chapter of the Ethics of the Fathers, Rabbi Simeon says "There are three crowns, the crown of the Law, the crown of the Priesthood, the crown of Royalty; but the crown of a good name excels them all." She has attained all those four crowns; the crown of the British Empire, the greatest the world has ever seen; the crown of the law, for there was no sovereign more obedient to the Law of God than herself; the crown of Priesthood, for she was the Head of the Church and Defender of her Faith; and the crown of a good name which is her highest praise, and which will endure as long as the memory of man will last. Happy is the nation which has produced such a ruler, and happy is the generation which saw her. Indeed a good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

In reflecting upon what special blessing to pray for on behalf of her successor and the Empire over which she ruled, I am confronted with the same difficulty that the wayfarer felt in that beautiful parable in the Talmud. The wayfarer was thirsty, hungry and footsore, when he saw a tree bearing luscious fruit, giving a pleasant shade, and nourished by a stream rippling close by. He partook of the fruit, reposed in the shade, and refreshed himself in the stream; and when about to depart, addressing the tree, he said, "Oh tree! How shall I bless thee? If I wish thee sweet fruits, your fruits are as sweet as they can be; if I wish thee pleasant shades, your shades are pleasant enough; if I wish for a cool stream to run close by thee and nourish thee, thou hast it already. What then shall I ask for thee? I shall ask this, that may every branch and offshoot that spring from thee be like thee," and in the same spirit we pray that every successor of our dear Queen shall be like her. May her great nation continue to prosper as they did in her time, inspired by the imperishable memory of her blameless and noble life!

SPECIAL PRAYER.

Sovereign of the Universe, and Lord of Lords, In Thy hands are the life of every creature, and the soul of every human being. There is no God but Thee, and no Saviour but Thyself. All things were created by Thee and are the work of Thy hands. Thou hast made the world and the fulness thereof, the heavens and all their hosts.

Oh One God! Creator of the world! Thou doest all that Thou pleasest and there is none in the highest or the lowest regions to say unto Thee, "What doest Thou, or what workest Thou," for all are Thy creatures and the work of Thy hands.

Oh True God and Just Judge! Thou hast ordained and decreed that all who are born are to die, and thus it has pleased Thy Divine will to take from us the pride of our eyes and to remove from our heads the crown of our glory, the God-fearing and virtuous Queen, our Sovereign Lady Victoria. Our hearts are sore, and our grief is heavy at this great and irreparable loss.

Most High God, King of the Universe! May it be acceptable to Thee to hearken to the humble prayer that we lay before Thee, with tears and broken hearts, to admit into everlasting life and peace and happiness, with the souls of the upright and the righteous of all time, the soul of this virtuous Queen under the protection of whose rule we have enjoyed the blessings of freedom and prosperity, by virtue of her just and benevolent laws, and of the love and motherly care which she extended to all her subjects of whatsoever creed or nation. Give her, we beseech Thee, of the fruit of her hands and the enjoyment of that Light, reserved for the Righteous in the world to come, which no Eye hath seen but Thine, O Lord!

Merciful Father! In thy manifold mercy, comfort the hearts of her Royal sons and daughters, and of all the Royal Family, and comfort also our hearts and the hearts of the various races and nations who are mourning her loss to-day. Comfort us all in our affliction.

Let her enter into peace, let her rest in her bed, and let her uprightness go before her.—Amen.

Psalm xlix. was then sung and followed by the Kaddish.

PRAYER FOR THE KING AND THE ROYAL FAMILY

May He Who dispenseth salvation unto kings and dominion unto princes, Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, Who delivered his servant David from the destructive sword, Who maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters, bless, preserve, guard, assist, exalt and raise unto a high eminence our most gracious sovereign King Edward VII., his Royal Consort, the Duke and Duchess of York, and all the members of the Royal Family. May the Supreme King of Kings exalt and raise him on high, and grant him a long and prosperous reign. May the Supreme King of Kings, through His infinite mercy, inspire him and all his counsellors and officers with benevolence towards us, and all Israel our brethren. In his days and in ours may Judah be saved, and Israel dwell securely, and may the Redeemer come to Zion. May this be the will of God, and let us say,—Amen.

PARSEE MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The Committee of the Parsee or Zoroastrian Religious Fund in Hongkong, under their President, Mr. H. N. Mody, held a Special Memorial Service for the late Queen Empress Victoria at their premises in Elgin Street at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 2nd inst. Almost the whole of the community met for the special occasion, and general prayers were first offered and certain religious ceremonies in commemoration of the dead performed in accordance with the rites and tenets of the Zoroastrian religion. A special prayer was said by the President, Mr. Mody, in a very impressive and effective manner, and the whole congregation devoutly joined in offering the prayer after him.

The prayer was as follows:—

Blessed be the name of Holy Ahura-Mazada. Hear the voice of our prayer, O Ahura-Mazada. Holy, Heavenly, Pure; Be gracious unto us Thy Mazdayasnia Servants; and satisfy us with Thy mercy: Vouchsafe to us Merciful Creator that our late blessed Gracious Sovereign Queen-Empress Victoria be partaker of everlasting glory in Thy Kingdom of Heaven. She, the Fravashi of the Pure, put her trust in Thee; she was led into righteousness and justice by the multitude of Thy divine mercy and grace, and, set on the throne that ever judged rightly, ministered to the well-being, peace, and prosperity of the various nationalities put by Thy divine wisdom under her care these three score years and three, and ministered to the edifying of her earthly kingdom for ever-increasing strength and durability to the everlasting glory of Thy heavenly and highest name. Therefore, O Good Ahura-Mazada, be favourable to her, receive her to the glory of eternal life in Thy imperishable Kingdom of purity, and let her rest under the shadow of Thy throne in heavenly calm from her labours in the number of Thy elect Amshaspands. We, Thy humble unworthy servants of the Zarathustrian faith, give Thee, Father of all Mercies, most humble and hearty thanks for all

thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all her other subjects during her glorious sovereignty on this earth, and we beseech Thee to give Thy ear to our prayer for her blessedness which goeth from our unfeigned lips and from the fulness of our hearts.

THE QUEEN'S STATUE.

The base of the Queen's Statue on the Praya, which was erected to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, is semi-circled with floral wreaths and other tributes of respect from Hongkong residents. Many of the tokens are tastefully designed, and bear the most appropriate expressions of sincere bereavement. Immediately at the foot of the statue is one from the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, a St. George's Cross, encircled by a broad wreath of white chrysanthemums, &c., in the centre being a black velvet shield bearing the letter 'V' in gold thread. A broad silk band bears the words "Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce." The Freemasons of Hongkong provide a handsome wreath, of white chrysanthemums, &c., and blue flowers in the centre. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers are fully represented, there being four wreaths from the Regiment. The first, with a broad black satin band tied in a lover's knot, bears the following inscription on a card: "In respectful and loyal memory of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, from the Officers, 2nd Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers." The second has the following words: "In devoted memory of our Most Gracious Queen Victoria: From the Sergeants 2nd Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers." The third is a wreath surmounted by a St. George's and a St. Andrew's Cross combined and is inscribed as follows:—"To the memory of our Beloved Queen Empress: From the N. C. O.'s and Men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers." On the left of these the fourth is a beautiful wreath bearing the words "In loving memory of our Queen, from the women of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers." Another prominent floral offering is that of the Parsce Community, placed at the right side of the statue by Mr. H. N. Mody, with the words woven in silk, "To her, the Good Ruler, the Pious Queen, Obit. 22 1 1901."

The Governor of Macao with the Portuguese Consul-General and others placed a beautiful wreath on the front base of the Statue, tied with ribbons of the Portuguese national colours. This wreath was placed by Senhor Romano in person, and while he was doing so H.E. the Governor of Macao, Lieutenants Carvalhaes and Gouvea, the commander and officers of the cruiser *Adamastor*, and a large number of the Portuguese community, who had all proceeded on foot to the Statue after the Memorial Service, uncovered and respectfully saluted. The "Italian Residents" have also contributed a floral offering side by side with the Austro-Hungarian and German Consuls and the Royal Engineers. On the right front is a token in the form of a huge floral anchor entwined with a narrow black ribbon, bearing in gold letters the names of the different ships of the British Fleet in the harbour. Another beautiful wreath with palm leaves and a varied assortment of flowers tastefully arranged, and surrounded by a broad white satin ribbon, is from the German community. It bears the following inscription in silver, "Dem Andenken Ihrer Hochseligen Majestaet Koenigin Victoria In Tiefster Ehrerbietung Gewidmet Von Den Deutschen Hongkongs." Other wreaths and crosses bear the following words—"From the Chinese Justices of the Peace;" "From the Members of the Hongkong Club;" "A Chee and Co.;" "From Lane, Crawford and Co.: In loving memory of our Beloved Queen;" "A Token of loyal devotion from the Hongkong Police Force, V.K.;" "From the Chinese Club;" "From the Tung Wah Hospital;" "From the Hongkong Commercial Union;" "From the District Watchmen's Committee;" "Ip Chu Kai, Messrs Reiss & Co.'s compradore;" "From Po Leung Kok;" "From the Chinese Chamber of Commerce;" "In Memory of our loved Queen, From I. E. and S. Hongkong;" "From the Institute of Engineers and Shipbuilders;" "From the Jewish Community; Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all;" "From the Hongkong Volunteer Corps;" "From Mr and Mrs.

Charles H. Lammert," etc. A floral shield was placed on the monument by the Committee of the Club Germania, the shield showing "V" in violets and a ribbon in the German colours bearing the inscription "Club Germania." The "Staff and Departmental Sergeants' Mess" also contribute a beautiful wreath, as also the Hongkong Branch of the China Association, the French Consul, Hongkong Club and Lieut.-Col. Welchman and officers of 5th Hyderabad Infantry Regiment. The Filipinos showed their respect for our late Sovereign by placing a pretty wreath of passion flowers, wisteria and tea roses, with black leaves, the whole covered with black gauze, the loose end of the knot tying the gauze bearing the letters in gold, "From the Filipino Residents." Mr. and Mrs. Danby also placed a large chrysanthemum wreath on the Statue. We have already noticed the little tribute with the inscription, "From a grateful pensioner." "Watkins, Limited" deposited a wreath on the Statue with the floral design "V.R." in the centre.

SERVICE AT CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 2nd February.

A special service in memory of the late Queen Victoria was held at Christ Church, Shameen, on Saturday morning, the 2nd February, at 11 a.m., at which the largest congregation of different nationalities that ever assembled in the Shameen Church met to manifest their respect for her late Majesty. Among these present were the Consular body, the Taotai Kung Shin Tsan, representing the Acting Viceroy of Liang Kwang, the naval officers and marines, and nearly all the foreign residents of Shameen. The Rev. H. G. Johnson delivered the funeral sermon.

THE KING'S MESSAGE.

A Government Gazette Extraordinary published on the 6th inst. contained the following telegram to H.E. the Governor from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated London, 5th February:—

His Majesty commands me to transmit the following message to you for publication:—"To my people beyond the seas. The countless messages of loyal sympathy which I have received from every part of my dominions over the seas testify to the universal grief in which the whole Empire now mourns the loss of my beloved Mother. In the welfare and prosperity of her subjects throughout Greater Britain the Queen ever evinced a heartfelt interest. She saw with thankfulness the steady progress which under a wide extension of self-government they had made during her reign. She warmly appreciated their unflinching loyalty to her throne and person, and was proud to think of those who had so nobly fought and died for the Empire's cause in South Africa. I have already declared that it will be my constant endeavour to follow the great example which has been bequeathed to me. In these endeavours I shall have a confident trust in the devotion and sympathy of the people and of their several representative assemblies throughout my vast Colonial dominions. With such loyal support I will with God's blessing solemnly work for the promotion of the common welfare and security of the great Empire over which I have now been called to reign. (Signed) Edward, R. and I."

The Macao correspondent writing to our contemporary *O Porvir* on the 2nd inst. says:—As soon as the official news of the death of H.M. Queen Victoria reached this Colony orders were given to fire the guns every quarter of an hour for three consecutive days, and the flags at all the forts and Consulates were left half-mast till the day of the funeral. On this day all the Government offices were closed and the minute gun started from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m., as a token of respect for the late Queen of England.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Thursday afternoon, 7th inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

HON. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

HON. W. MEIGH GOODMAN, Q.C. (Attorney-General).

HON. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

HON. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

HON. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

HON. BASIL TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

HON. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

HON. DR. HO KAI.

HON. J. THURBURN.

HON. R. M. GRAY.

HON. J. J. KESWICK.

HON. WEI A YUK.

MR. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 6 and 7 and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 1) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE DEFENCE CONTRIBUTION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal and re-enact with amendments The Defence Contribution Ordinance, 1896. He said—This Ordinance substitutes a fixed contribution of 20 per cent. in full return, as expressed in section 5, "for the annual cost of the Imperial Garrison, including all capital expenditure required for Military lands and buildings and the cost of maintenance of all Military works and buildings and the cost of lodgings in lieu of barracks and all other Military charges whatsoever." This is in lieu of the present fixed contribution of 17½ per cent., which is in addition to various liabilities varying and uncertain in amount in relation to defence purposes. The Honourable the Colonial Treasurer has already gone into figures in connection with this Bill, and I submit that it is a fit and proper Bill to be passed by this Council, I beg, therefore to move the Second reading.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

The Council went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

There being no amendments in committee, on the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the Hon. J. THURBURN, the Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891, was read a third time and passed.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Public Health in the colony of Hongkong. He said—In moving the second reading of this Bill I should like to acknowledge the assistance I have received from Dr. Clark, the Medical Officer of Health, in the construction of this consolidation. If I read my memorandum to honourable members they will understand the nature of the Bill and the reasons for bringing it forward, and then I shall propose it be referred to the Standing Law Committee. The memorandum is as follows:—

"The main object of this Ordinance is to consolidate the provisions of the various enactments relating to Public Health set forth in schedule A, so far as they are still operative and in force.

"In substituting a single Ordinance for the fifteen it repeals, it has been found necessary to make some slight alterations in the wording of some of the enactments consolidated, so as to

preserve uniformity of language, and prevent undue repetition. Nearly the whole of these amendments are purely formal, and the substance of the law remains, almost entirely, unchanged.

"In section 23, however, two new sub-sections (9) have been inserted, dealing with smoke nuisances. These sub-sections follow the law in force in England as set forth in section 91, sub-section 7 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and section 24 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891.

"The principal Public Health Ordinance, No. 24 of 1887, was divided somewhat arbitrarily into six Parts, but those Parts had no headings referring to their respective contents. In the Consolidating Ordinance, the various sections are grouped together under appropriate headings. This, naturally, necessitates a new arrangement and re-numbering of the sections, but it greatly facilitates reference to any special subject matter.

"Certain powers were conferred upon the Board under Part II of Ordinance No. of 1887, when any part of the colony appeared to be threatened with or affected by any formidable epidemic, endemic, or contagious disease, and the Governor had, with the advice of the Executive Council, issued and published in the Gazette the Proclamation mentioned in the Ordinance. Since that time, however, all requisite powers have been conferred by the Legislature without the previous issue of such Proclamation, and it has, therefore, been deemed unnecessary to retain Part II of the Public Health Ordinance, 1887, in this Consolidation.

"It will be seen that the term "Medical Officer of Health" has been substituted in this Ordinance for the term "Sanitary Superintendent" as used in Ordinances No. 24 of 1887 and No. 11 of 1895. This is because the Medical Officer of Health has, since his appointment in 1895, been appointed to perform all the duties formerly appertaining to the office of Sanitary Superintendent, which office is now merged in that of the Medical Officer of Health.

"The continual effort which has been made of late years to improve the sanitation of the colony has given rise to several amendments of the Public Health Ordinance, 1887, as well as to other Ordinances passed with the view of securing the introduction of, at least, some light and ventilation into all Chinese houses, and of diminishing the evil of overcrowding in the colony.

"A large number of Bye-laws have, moreover, been made from time to time, under the repealed Ordinances. All those at present in force have been collected together and inserted in schedule B. It has been found desirable to leave some few sections of Ordinances. No. 34 of 1899 and No. 15 of 1894 unrepealed, because such enactments as relate to the height of buildings, for instance, or to the erection, in certain cases, of verandahs, come more directly within the scope of the Ordinances relating to building than of those dealing with public health generally. When the Building Ordinances are consolidated those few sections can be included in such consolidation and repealed.

"The rules regulating the election of members of the Sanitary Board, which are still in force, will be found in schedule C.

"It is trusted that this Consolidating Ordinance will render the law relating to public health more easily accessible to those interested in the subject and will facilitate the labours of those to whom its enforcement is entrusted."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move under No. 40 of the Standing Rules and Regulations that the Bill be now referred to the Standing Law Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In relation to the Standing Law Committee there will be a good deal of work for you to do, and as I am Chairman I should be very much obliged if the members would stop a few minutes to-night, so that we could make our final arrangements, and I think we could also meet in the Council Chamber to-morrow and Monday next at three o'clock.

THE LAWS AS TO RATING.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance

to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Rating. He said—The objects and reasons attached to the Bill explain it. They are as follows:—

"This Ordinance consolidates the four Ordinances as to Rating which it repeals.

"The definition of "tenement" is modified as regards Piers in order to comply with the provisions of section 17 of the Piers Ordinance, 1899.

"Section 29 embodies the alterations effected by resolutions of the Legislative Council passed since Ordinance No. 5 of 1892 came into operation.

"In section 35 the words "within the first month of such quarter" and "subject to the provisions of section 36" have been inserted to prevent any ambiguity.

"The only substantial amendment is contained in subsection (1.) of section 39, which is new. It confers upon the Governor in Council power, if he thinks fit so to do, to fix a minimum rateable value for tenements, below which they shall not be rateable at all. This is desirable, for in some villages there are premises the quarterly rates in respect of which amount only to a few cents, while the trouble and expense of collection and enforcement of payment, are entirely out of proportion to the benefit derived by the Treasury. Indeed, where launch hire for the collector has to be taken into consideration, the revenue gains practically nothing. The remaining amendments are only formal."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill was referred to the Standing Law Committee.

AMENDING THE CRIMINAL LAW.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Criminal Law as regards certain indecent outrages and assaults. He said—This rather unpleasant Bill has been rendered necessary on account of a case which was prosecuted some time ago. It brings the law of Hongkong exactly parallel with the law of England, the sections being taken from the English Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

There being no alterations in committee, on the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE LAWS RELATING TO TRUSTEES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Trustees. He said—The object of this Bill is to place on the Statute Book of the colony the Trustee Act, 1893. By this Act a number of enactments relating to trustees are repealed and re-enacted with amendments. By its enactment here the members of the legal profession and other persons interested in trusts will have to the full the guidance and assistance which can be derived from the English cases and text books on the subject of trusts. There will be the further advantage resulting from its enactment that several of the English Trustee Acts which form part of the law of the colony but are not to be found on the local Statute Book, having been enacted by the unfortunate method of reference, will be swept away. See Ordinance No. 7 of 1856. These Acts so enacted are proposed, however, to be repealed not by this Ordinance but by the Civil Procedure (Statutes Repeal) Ordinance, 1901, which will come into force contemporaneously with this Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill was referred to the Law Committee.

LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and declare in certain respects the law to be administered in the Supreme Court. He said:—It will be seen that the object of this Bill is to place on the local Statute Book those enactments of the Judicature Act, 1873, which were intended to effect a fusion of the two systems of law formerly administered by the English

Superior Courts, and also certain enactments of the same Act for the amendment and declaration of the law. It is thought that the passing of a new Code of Civil Procedure affords a favourable opportunity for enacting these valuable provisions of law. It is proposed that the Bill when passed shall come into operation concurrently with the new Code of Civil Procedure.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill was referred to the Law Committee.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to establish a code of procedure for the regulation of the process, practice, and mode of pleading in the civil jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the colony. He said:—The existing Code of Civil Procedure has been in force for 27 years and it has of late years been evident that the time has come for a revision of the system of civil procedure which was established by it. Accordingly, in March, 1899, the Chief Justice submitted to the members of the legal profession, at a meeting called for that purpose, a proposal that, if they thought such a revision desirable, he was willing to undertake it while on leave of absence in England in that year. At the meeting there was a general agreement that such revision was desirable and that the offer to undertake should be accepted. The proposal with the sanction of the Governor and the Secretary of State, and a Draft Code of Civil Procedure was prepared and printed, and copies of it arrived in the colony in April last. These copies were distributed among the members of the legal profession, and a meeting of members was called in July last, at which, on the suggestion of the Chief Justice, a Committee was appointed for the purpose of examining, revising, and settling the Draft. The Committee consisted of the Chief Justice, the Acting Puisne Judge, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mr. E. H. Sharp, barristers at law, and Mr. Victor H. Deacon and Mr. J. F. Reece, solicitors. At the same time all the members of the profession were invited to send in to the Committee suggestions in writing for the amendment of the draft. The work of revision has been very thoroughly and carefully done by the Committee. Corrected proofs of the first revision have been sent to all the members of the profession as the work progressed, with a view to obtaining fresh suggestions for the improvement of the draft. Quite recently a second revision has been made, and it is believed that the Bill now embodies a complete and workable body of law, adapted to the requirements of modern practice, for the regulation of the civil procedure of the Supreme Court. It is desired that, if possible, the Code should be brought into operation on the 1st July, 1901.

To the short statement of objects and reasons I should like to add a few remarks. I have carefully studied this Code, and it appears to me to be an admirable piece of work, for which we ought to feel much indebted to the Chief Justice. Its preparation must have involved a vast amount of labour, and it is evident that the greatest care has been taken both by Sir J. Carrington and the Committee to render it as complete and perfect as possible. The Ordinance which has regulated Civil Procedure in this colony for the last twenty-seven years was well suited to the requirements of Hongkong in 1873, when it was passed. But during those twenty-seven years the procedure under the English Judicature Acts has developed into a system far in advance of anything previously existing. The rules and orders regulating that procedure have not been brought into force in the Colony hitherto, and thus in certain respects the procedure in Hongkong has not kept pace with the more modern improvements in the Mother Country. The Hongkong Code of 1873 was founded mainly upon the rules of the Supreme Court for China and Japan passed in 1865, and it also embodied parts of the Indian Code of Civil Procedure then in force, as well as some few sections of the Indian Evidence Acts and the English Common Law Procedure Acts. But since its enactment, the Indian Code of 1882 has been passed, as well as the 1883 rules of the Supreme Court of England. The framers of the Code

now before the Council, while basing their work upon the Hongkong Code of 1873, have, accordingly, had the advantage of being able to make full use of the more modern materials thus placed at their disposal, and the result is that the procedure in Hongkong has been brought up to the requirements of the greatly developed commerce of this colony. Looking back upon the progress of Civil Procedure in England during the nineteenth century, it might fairly be said that the first quarter of that century was a period of stagnation. The stately figure of Lord Chancellor Eldon blocked the way. The second quarter might be described as the period of preparation. It was then that the eloquence of Lord Brougham at last succeeded in impressing upon Parliament the necessity of appointing Royal Commissions, and the reports of these Commissions paved the way for reforms destined to sweep into oblivion many of the obscure technicalities and heart-rending delays of the ponderous machinery of the then existing law. The third quarter saw the actual commencement of these reforms, embodied for instance in the three Common Law Procedure Acts of 1852, 1854 and 1860, the Chancery Procedure Act of 1852, and the Chancery Orders of 1860. It was not, however, till the last quarter of the century that the procedure of the different Courts was at once simplified and welded into one harmonious whole. The Judicature Act 1873, did not come into operation till the 1st November, 1875. By its provisions, the various Courts, such as the Exchequer, Common Pleas, Queen's Bench, Chancery, Probate, Divorce and Admiralty, were fused together into one High Court of Justice, and the amalgamation of the procedure of the different divisions was greatly facilitated. Thus, by selecting the most suitable of the diverse regulations from the various system, it became possible in England to evolve the excellent code of Civil Procedure known as the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1883. These are the rules now in force in the Mother Country. This is the source from which much of the new matter in the Code, now before the Council, has been drawn; and I think you will agree with me that it is very desirable that Hongkong should follow the lead of England in these respects.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in seconding said—I am sure all members of this council will endorse the remarks of the Attorney-General regarding the case, attention labour that the Chief Justice (Sir John Carrington) and the Committee have devoted to this Bill, the thanks of this Council and of the community are due to Sir John Carrington for his labour in drafting this important measure which is one with which the welfare of the colony is most intimately connected. (Applause.)

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill was referred to the Law Committee.

CIVIL PROCEDURE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal various statutes relating to civil procedure or matters connected therewith. He said:—The object of this Bill is to repeal the enactments which will be superseded by the Code of Civil Procedure and in part also by the Trustee Ordinance, 1901.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill was referred to the Law Committee.

The Council then adjourned till next Wednesday.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Immediately after the Council meeting a meeting of the Finance Committee was held, the Colonial Secretary presiding. The following minutes were submitted and passed.

The Governor recommends the Council to re-vote the sum of \$120 in aid of the vote "Government Medical Scholarship." The CHAIRMAN said each scholarship was worth \$40 a year, and as there were three students, that meant \$120 a year. This sum had been voted last year, but had not been paid, and it was now necessary to re-vote the money to allow of its being paid this year.

The Governor recommends the Council to re-vote the sum of \$5,829.82 to cover the cost of construction (\$1,875) and chartering of steam-launches (\$3,954.82) for the use of the New Territory.

The CHAIRMAN said it was necessary to charter launches while the new launches now completed were being built for the use of the New Territory. This money also had been voted last year, but not paid.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Wednesday afternoon, the 6th inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The President (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Lieut.-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C., Dr. Hartigan, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

A NUISANCE DOWN WEST.

Correspondence was submitted regarding the urinal immediately west of the Canton and Macao Steamboat Company's Wharf, Dr. Clark stating that he could only suggest, after three months' trial, that the Board should recommend the Government to remove the urinal at once, and to erect a suitable brick urinal lined and paved with glazed tiles, opposite the permanent Canton wharf, such urinal to have at least six recesses.

The PRESIDENT observed that an intercepting tank had now been fixed.

Dr. CLARK said that as they had now provision in the estimates this year for the erection of a number of suitable urinals, he proposed that the Board recommend the Government to erect a brick urinal with no less than six recesses in the immediate neighbourhood of the Canton Wharf and the small iron urinal be removed.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE SUGGESTED ADDITION TO THE STAFF AT KENNEDYTOWN.

A letter, dated January 16th, was submitted from the Colonial Secretary, who said:—

"I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has again had under his consideration the question of the appointment of an additional inspector for the city Slaughterhouse and Animal Depôts, and has decided that before making any recommendation on the subject to the Secretary of State, the Captain Superintendent of Police shall be authorised to station police at the Depôts at night to fulfil the duties of watchmen and supervisors. I am to request you to report after a reasonable period has elapsed whether the Board considers that the system works in a satisfactory manner. I am also to inform you that the Government is about to consider the question whether it might not be advisable to place the Slaughterhouse under the immediate supervision of the Sanitary Board in the same manner as the Depôts, and has instructed the Captain Superintendent of Police to confer with the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon on the subject and report thereon to the Government."

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—"So long as the work is done, it does not matter who does it."

POLICE SUPERVISION OF THE ANIMAL DEPOTS AT KENNEDYTOWN.

Replying to a letter from the Board forwarding a recommendation from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon that the Animal Depôts at Kennedytown should be placed under police supervision from the hour of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly, the Colonial Secretary wrote:—

"I am directed to inform you that the Honourable the Captain Superintendent of Police has agreed to increase the supervision of the Depôts in question, and that it is hoped this will prove effective in preventing the irregularities complained of."

STALLS IN PUBLIC STREETS AND FOOTPATHS.

Replying to the letter of the Board forwarding the request that the Government should give directions prohibiting the erection of stalls

and footpaths by so-called hawkers, who should be restricted to *bona fide* hawking, the Colonial Secretary wrote:—

"I am directed to inform you that, in view of the fact that the policy of allocating certain positions to hawkers where they can be easily supervised and can cause no real obstruction is adopted all over the city, His Excellency sees no reason to interfere with the discretion of the Captain Superintendent of Police. His Excellency has ridden frequently through the lanes mentioned in the Wanchai district. The stalls are the restaurants of the working coolies, and in His Excellency's opinion their removal would impose a hardship upon that class and increase the cost of their living. They offer no obstruction to light and air, and as these lanes are only used by foot-passengers there is practically no obstruction to the traffic."

Dr. HARTIGAN said it seemed to him that in this communication His Excellency's good-nature and Irish kindness of heart had made him look leniently on a practice which, though its prohibition might entail a temporary hardship on the coolie class, undoubtedly by its continuance did serious injury to the drainage system. It appeared to him that in this letter undue prominence was given to the question of street obstruction, which though unquestionably a nuisance in the ordinary acceptation of the term, was only really harmful through its results. What the Board wished to put an end to was the obstruction underground, the blocking of the drains and the consequent sagging back of fetid sillage, which might be seen oozing up through the street ventilators and overflowing from the unsealed traps into the kitchens and backyards of Chinese houses. Decaying vegetable matter, as was well-known to them, formed even more offensive sewage than animal refuse, and had the further more serious objection that its fibres, which long resisted decay, tended to encourage the deposit of the more consistent portion of the liquid sewage, and bound the whole into a thick, tough putrescent mass, which then formed an admirable plug for a pipe-drain. Now this was precisely what happened where-over these coolie out-door restaurants were situated. Any of them could establish the truth of the fact by walking along Bridges or Aberdeen Streets, near Victoria College, or the streets in the neighbourhood of the Eastern Market, Elgin Road, Kowloon, or the Hunghom Village. In these places when the sewers were being cleaned great quantities of black stinking slush were removed. He had stood over the man-hole when the cleaning plug had been dragged through the drain with the greatest difficulty and had seen, after summer drought, the dried concentrated mass being actually gouged or scraped out of the drain pipe. This stoppage was not due to insufficient fall, for though at Hunghom and Wanchai the gradient was small, at Aberdeen Street it was very steep. This blocking constituted a public danger, rendered nugatory the advantages of their very expensive drainage system, and, as furthermore they must of course bow to His Excellency's decision, they must endeavour to minimise its injurious results. He would ask the Board to request the sub-committee for sanitary improvements in Victoria to give this matter their immediate attention, and draw up some scheme by which proper eating-houses could be provided, or devise some practical plan by means of which restaurant garbage would be prevented from getting into the drains, which they could ask the Government to put in force.

Mr. OSBORNE said that as one of the committee who drew up the report which gave rise to this correspondence he should like to say that he agreed with Dr. Hartigan. He did not think His Excellency the Governor had clearly understood the recommendations they made in their report. He did hope, notwithstanding this decision of His Excellency, that the matter would be seen to by the Captain Superintendent of Police, and that he would see his way to put some check upon this trading in the streets.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said the report of Messrs. Osborne and McKie was referred to him, and when he went down to inspect the streets complained of he found that the hawkers had been turned out of Wing Fung Street. He admitted that they ought not to have been allowed

to congregate there. The policy of the police was that in streets which were frequented and traversed almost entirely by Chinese hawkers were allowed to squat, but they were not allowed to squat in streets where Europeans resided or which were traversed and frequented by Europeans. Wing Fung Street was such a street. He admitted it was an oversight on the part of the police—or they might call it neglect of duty—in allowing the hawkers to congregate there. That was stated in his report. He thought the street His Excellency referred to was Nullah Lane, a street exactly behind the Wanchai Market. That was a street which was entirely used by Chinese, and it was a street which His Excellency frequently rode down. This street was about the only place where coolies who went out at four o'clock in the morning could get a bit of breakfast, houses and shops not being open. There were similar stalls in streets in the great European cities, including the first city of the world—the city of London—and upon his word of honour, he could not see that they did any harm. He might state incidentally that where hawkers were allowed to squat the police—and there were special police told off for the work—saw that the hawkers swept up the refuse, and he ventured to say that if any member of the Board chose to go down Nullah Lane or Cross Street—the other two streets complained of—at say nine o'clock in the evening, when these hawkers had done their day's work, they would find the street swept and garished and as clean as Queen's Road at the bottom of that building.

The President asked Dr. Hartigan if he was content to leave the matter there.

Dr. HARTIGAN said no. The blocking of the streets was a minor matter. He did not approve of it, but what he complained of particularly was the blocking of the drains. No doubt all the rubbish was swept up, but it found its way into the drains. He asked the M. O. H. if their inspectors had not complained over and over again about the blocking of the drains in these streets.

It was understood that the committee should take the matter into consideration without a formal resolution.

THE NUISANCE ON THE HILLSIDE AT KENNEDYTOWN.

Replying to the letter forwarding the recommendation of the Board that measures should be taken to remedy the dangerous nuisance existing on the hillside at Kennedytown above and in proximity to the new Infectious Hospital, and also that the malarious swamp situated besides the old glass works and below the said Hospital should be drained or otherwise made healthy, the Colonial Secretary wrote:—

"I am directed to inform you that His Excellency has received a report upon the site from the Honourable the Director of Public Works and the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer, who visited Kennedytown on the 9th January, to the effect that there is no swamp beside the glass works and below the said Hospital. The place so described is an ordinary building lot, though from the description given in your letter it cannot be positively ascertained whether you refer to Inland Lot 1,082 or Inland Lot 1,293. The latter, being below the level of the road in places, may in wet weather form a stagnant pool; but the only remedy for this rests with the owners, who will be asked to take preventive measures. There is, however, a stream running past the site and into a swamp above the site which Dr. Hartigan appears not to have noticed; but it will be impossible to do anything in the case until the foundations and retaining walls of the new Hospital are complete, when this water can be run along a paved gutter to the back and the swamp can be filled in. The stench arising from the hillside seems to be due to the practice of putting out hoofs, pieces of skin and hair (chiefly of goats) to dry, and His Excellency suggests that this practice should be put a stop to by the officers of the Sanitary Board. The Director of Public Works and the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer report that in no case was there any smell arising from the graves, nor were any portions of dead bodies sticking out of the graves. His Excellency would, however, suggest that the carcasses of cattle should be more deeply buried in order to obviate any chance of a nuisance in the future. In view of

the report of the Director of Public Works and the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer, His Excellency is of opinion that the site for this Hospital is not unsuitable and is the most convenient that could be found for the purpose for which it is intended."

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Clark—"I cannot understand how the Hon. D.P.W. and the Acting P.C.M.O. failed to see the swamp indicated in Dr. Hartigan's motion and in the Board's letter of December 21st, 1900. I have been down to Kennedytown to-day (January 25th) and found swampy ground and pools of water in the waste land called Cadogan Street immediately to the west of the old glass works, while to the south of the remaining portion of the lot occupied by the silk works is a flourishing water-cress bed, which can only be traversed by brick stepping stones. To the south of this again is the land marked on the map as Forbes Street, which is also water-logged. A reference to the attached map will explain this, and I do not see how the locality could have been better described than 'beside the old glass-works,' as the swampy land can be traced from west side of glass-works, past silk works and round into Forbes Street. It cannot be said that any rain has fallen lately, and yet the water-cress beds are in a most flourishing condition, and there are pools of water here and there over this area. I did not observe any stench there to-day, but it was undoubted when the committee of the Board, consisting of Dr. Hartigan, Mr. McKie, Mr. Tooker, and myself visited it on September 14th last."

Mr. McKie:—"It would be interesting to see the report of the D.P.W. and the P.C.M.O. They cannot have been to the same place that I inspected."

Dr. Hartigan:—"I regret to differ in toto from the report as given in this letter. I was over the ground yesterday (January 26th) and it was still a swamp both above and below the soil. There are none so blind as those who will not see. If His Excellency does not believe the report of the Board's committee let His Excellency appoint an independent one. I had no object in stating anything but the truth, and am supported by the Board's Surveyor's report as well as by the minute of the M. O. H."

The President said that before going further in this matter, and with a view possibly to prevent a good deal of sp. aking on the subject, he might say that the P. C. M. O. and himself were entirely misled by Dr. Hartigan. He described this swamp here as being a malarious swamp situate beside the old glass works and below the site of the Hospital. The P. C. M. O. and himself went to the site of the old hospital. The land beside it was not a swamp, but a hillside which was being cleared. It belonged to Mr. Dorabjee Nowrojee. They then went below the Hospital, and took the direction of the glass-works, where there was some land owned by Mr. Chater. He had since learned that the site mentioned by Dr. Hartigan had nothing to do with the glass works, but was below the silk works, 500 or 600 feet away from the old Hospital.

Dr. BELL quite agreed with the President. The day they inspected the place they did not see this site on account of the vague description. He went down on Saturday, and saw what he thought was the site mentioned by the M. O. H. He thought the man there had a squatter's license and was trying to grow vegetables. Of course where there was water-cress there was a swamp. If they had seen that they might have recommended that the squatter's license should be cancelled.

Dr. HARTIGAN said for fear of being misunderstood he should like to state, before commenting on this letter, that when he raised the question of the insanitary surroundings of the proposed site for the Kennedytown Infectious Hospital he did not know by whom the intended site was chosen. He supposed some officer of the P. W. D. had selected it, but had no idea that the P. C. M. O. had been consulted. In fact such a question would he thought have been referred to the M. O. H. as the official responsible for sanitation. Having thus promised, it certainly seemed to him a most unusual proceeding to depute the two officers responsible for the selection and who at that Board had maintained that the objections pointed out by him did not exist,